

RESOURCES

NATURE, HISTORY AND HORTICULTURE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

VOLUME 4, NO.1 SPECIAL ISSUE, WINTER 2004



Looking Back, Looking Ahead

By Lee Stephenson, Division Director, Resource Management

The New Year is looking bright for our county's resources with the creation of Fairfax County Park Authority's first-ever, agency-wide Natural Resource Management Plan. The plan will guide our efforts to preserve and protect natural resources in county parks for the next five years.

We are exhilarated by the enthusiasm the draft plan has produced, here in the Park Authority and county-wide, and eager to begin implementation after the plan is adopted this winter by the Park Authority Board. (If you would like to read or download the plan, go to our web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.)

But our "plans" don't end there. Increased support for resource management has also resulted in prominent placement of resource management needs and goals in the 2003 update of the 2002-2006 Fairfax County Park Authority Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan focuses on new and better ways to integrate natural and cultural

resource protection in all aspects of the Park Authority's work, including a policy for exotic invasive plants and partnerships to gain expertise in managing natural resources.

We would not be able to accomplish nearly as much as we do without the dedicated volunteers and partner organizations that support our work and play a crucial role in connecting citizens with Fairfax County's heritage. These groups continue to thrive, contributing invaluable financial resources and hands-on services to county park lands.

The words "agony and ecstasy" also come to mind in looking back on 2003. The agony was the deep budget cuts that crippled the operation of two county natural resource sites — Riverbend Park

in Great Falls and Hidden Oaks Nature Center in Annandale. Fortunately, even this was followed by great joy when the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors restored all operating funds to both sites effective October 1st, 2003, as part of an outpouring of community support.

"Over the years, support for resource management has steadily grown. It underscores the recognition that caring stewardship of our heritage is inseparable from and vital to quality of life in Fairfax County."

The Friends of Hidden Oaks Nature Center was formed by citizens in response to the budget cuts and the group quickly recruited over 200 members. Similarly, in response to this crisis, the existing Friends of Riverbend Park grew dramatically this year. These groups played a key role in working with the Board of Supervisors demonstrating that nature centers and natural areas are essential to Fairfax's quality of life.

With funds from the 1998 Park Bond, Hidden Oaks and Hidden Pond Nature Centers completed the installation of beautiful, permanent exhibits this year that will delight and educate thousands of visitors.

LOOKING continued on page 6

What's RMD? RMD stands for Resource Management Division. It is the part of the Park Authority responsible for natural, historical and horticultural resources.

What's inside...

Save This Page	2
Interpretation	3
Partnerships	4
Volunteers	5
Mission Protect	7
Joy of Winter	8



WHEN YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH FAIRFAX COUNTY'S NATURAL, HISTORICAL AND HORTICULTURAL SITES, you will be joining hundreds of dedicated, passionate (and fun!) people who share your love of the outdoors, gardening and history. Here's where you can email or call for more information and answers to any questions or concerns.

To learn more about volunteering or setting up a park partnership call your local site. To send an email, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/volunteer/htm.

Park Philanthropy and Corporate Gifts

This includes employee matching gifts, planned giving, and donations, which are tax deductible.

To learn more about how you, your company or employer can offer support, email or call:

Fairfax County Park Foundation
supportparks@aol.com
703-324-8581 or visit
www.FairfaxCountyParkFoundation.com
Or contact any of our friends groups listed on this page.

Historic Property Rental Services

For weddings, family reunions, off-site meetings and other gatherings, you can rent one of Fairfax County's beautiful historic properties. To see rental properties or learn more, email or call:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weddings.htm
703-938-8835

Equal Access/ Special Accommodations

The Fairfax County Park Authority is committed to equal access in all programs and services. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. Please call the ADA/Access coordinator at 703-324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the date services are needed.

ADA/Access Coordinator
703-324-8563
TTY 703-803-3354
www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/ada.htm


**Need directions or more information?
Visit www.fairfaxcountry.gov/parks**

RESOURCES

Editor/Writer: Natasha Peterson
Photos: Don Sweeney, Jane Scully
Circulation: Karen Temple
Administration: Linda Crone
Production: Innovative Projects, Inc.

Published quarterly by the Fairfax County Park Authority, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035-1118. Available at park sites listed on the back cover and Fairfax County libraries.

Visit **ResOURces** online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources

 **ResOURces** is printed on 100% recycled paper.

Burke Lake Park 703-323-6600	Green Spring Gardens Park 703-642-5173	Lake Fairfax Park 703-471-5414
Colvin Run Mill Historic Site 703-759-2771	Hidden Oaks Nature Center 703-941-1065	Walker Nature Center 703-435-6530
Ellanor C. Lawrence Park 703-631-0013	Hidden Pond Nature Center 703-451-9588	Riverbend Park 703-759-9018
Frying Pan Park 703-437-5318	Huntley Meadows Park 703-768-2525	Sully Historic Site 703-437-1794
	Lake Accotink Park 703-569-3464	

To Join a Friends Group

Friends of Colvin Run Mill
Joseph Pruden, President
703-759-2771 (*Colvin Run Park*)
703-729-1967 (*home*)

**Founders, Benefactors, Supervisors
and Friends of Frying Pan Park, Inc.**
Jack Pitzer, Chairman
EditorJack@aol.com
703-971-1116 (*days*)
703-971-9480 (*eves*)

Friends of Green Spring Gardens
Thornton Burnet, President
703-642-5173 (*Green Spring Gardens Park*)

Friends of Historic Huntley
Barbara Ballentine, President
fohhuntley@aol.com
703-768-6987

Friends of Huntley Meadows
Harry Glasgow, President
www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org
703-768-2525 (*Huntley Meadows*)

Friends of Riverbend Park
Cathy Mayes, President
www.forb.org
703-759-1627

Sully Foundation
Mayo S. Stuntz, President
703-938-8176 (*home*)

**Friends of Hidden Oaks
Nature Center**
Scott Birdwell, President
<http://hiddenoaks.info>
703-573-1110 (*home*)

RMD Volunteer Coordinators

Volunteering
erin.chernisky@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-324-8750

Interpretive Services
mona.enquist-johnston@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-324-8513

**Archaeology and Collections
Cultural Resource Protection**
robert.wharton@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-787-3778

Master Gardener Program
sandra.flowers@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-941-7987

Concerns/questions about natural or cultural resources

Historic Properties
michael.rierson@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-324-8674

Archaeology
elizabeth.crowell@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-324-8675

**Wildlife and Natural Resource
Protection**
todd.bolton@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-324-8555

Or Visit Nature Finder on the Web

**ResOURces Online,
Nature Finder Database**
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources
Click on Nature Finder, left side of screen

Interpreters Tell All

I walked up to the field and that's all I saw. But by the time the heritage interpreter finished the tour, I didn't see just a field anymore. I could hear the battle cry of Civil War soldiers, smell the gunpowder, and feel the stampede of men and horses. I felt a chill go up my spine...

And that's what interpreters do. They weave a golden thread between visitors and the sites they serve, engaging and connecting us to nature and history in a very real and vital way. As we follow along, our world is expanded and enlivened.

More than just gifted storytellers and teachers, heritage interpreters are professionals that go through extensive training in order to practice their art. The result is in-depth knowledge spiced with passion and creativity.

My dad is an engineer. So it was so totally amazing to learn about beavers and how they're nature's engineers, how they build things and chew trees down into perfect building tools.

Interpreters even have their own international association, the National Association for Interpretation (NAI), which represents more than 4,500 interpreters from the U.S., Canada and 30 other countries. NAI is dedicated to the advancement of the profession of interpretation. On their excellent website, www.interpnet.com, the NAI describes interpretation this way: "Interpretation of natural and cultural heritage must be as old as humans. The shaman, storytellers, and elders of tribal groups carried the oral history of their people forward from generation to generation. Before books and modern methods of recording stories, these oral traditions were key to the survival and evolution of cultures. In the modern context, interpretation is the term used to describe communication activities designed to improve understanding at parks, zoos, museums, nature centers, historic sites, cruise companies, tour companies and aquariums."

Moving here from the southwest, I feel overwhelmed by the density and diversity of nature in Virginia. Learning more about it by going on trail walks with interpreters has really helped me feel more at home.

Interpreters are motivated in their work by a passion for nature and history. Mona Enquist-Johnston, RMD's volunteer and interpretive services manager, finds that every visit to a park renews her passion. As she tells it: "I arranged to meet a volunteer at Riverbend. My day unfolded in the most exhilarating way. Arriving early, I sat outdoors and watched. Three hummingbirds zoomed through the area, feeding, chasing and perching; two dozen tiger swallow-tails feasted on a tall prairie plant; and two five-lined skinks scurried across the deck. I was in heaven and I felt renewed."

Fortunately for us, we get to be the beneficiaries of an interpreter's far-reaching knowledge and heartfelt passion. Here in Fairfax County, we have beautiful parks in which to reap these benefits. And feel renewed. ❄️



Mona Enquist-Johnston

Congratulations to Mona-Enquist Johnston

Recipient of the 2003 Master Interpretive Manager Award National Association for Interpretation (NAI)

Fairfax County's own Mona Enquist-Johnston, Manager of Volunteer and Interpretive Services for the Resource Management Division, was nationally recognized for her outstanding work in Interpretation this past November at NAI's national conference in Sparks, Nevada.

*Come forth into the light of things,
Let Nature be your teacher.*

— William Wordsworth



Partnerships Put Spark in the Parks

Parks not only thrive through the caring involvement of individual volunteers, but through involvement with community groups of every kind: local businesses, government agencies, nonprofits, hobby and sports clubs, charities, environmental groups, and schools. We salute all of them. Our partnerships bring in new programs and visitors, help to fill the gap left by dwindling budgets, and help the Park Authority meet community needs and desires with dynamic, quality programs.

Join in the fun! From stargazing to trailblazing, there are scores of creative ways your business, club or agency can be involved with county parks. Here are just a few cool examples.

■ Community Groups

Community groups do more than support an existing park. Sometimes they even create new parks and historical places. Such was the case with Turner Farm Park. Turner Farm was owned both privately and by the federal government. People from the community banded together to raise funds to help purchase the land and develop facilities. They not only helped buy the land, they donated a playground, equestrian riding rings and fencing. They are currently raising money for astronomy facilities and for a cross-country riding course. The go-get-'em Turner Farm team consists of businesses, nonprofit organizations and individuals.

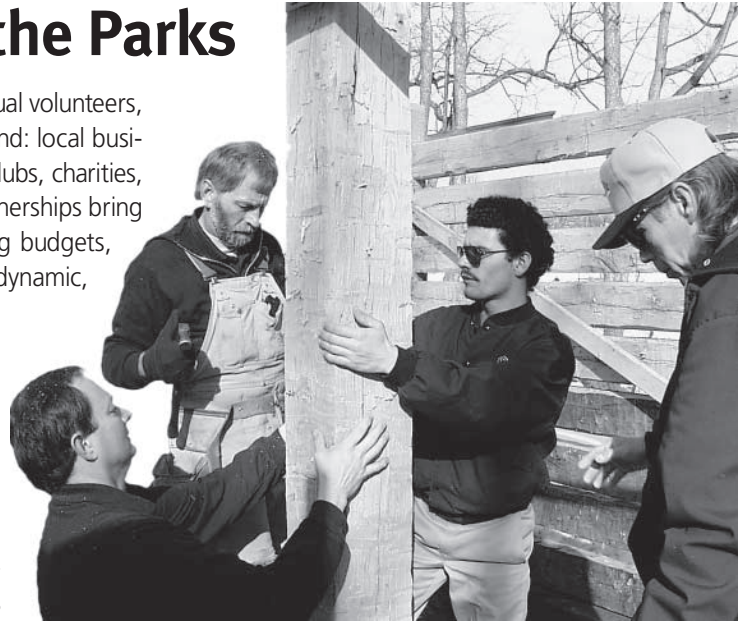
■ Fairfax County Public Schools

Our parks have an enduring and productive partnership with county schools. One program involves curriculum. On an annual basis, park program coordinators meet with curriculum coordinators from Fairfax County Public Schools to explore ways in which park educational programs can support the county's curriculum and Standards of Learning in science and social studies. Other school partnerships include Huntley Meadows, which works with several elementary schools for nature education. Green Spring Gardens partners Columbia Elementary School by helping with the school's garden.

■ Local Businesses

Business partnerships are growing. One exciting venture involved the Fairfax and Woodbridge Saturn dealerships. Working with Manager Jim Pomeroy at Hidden Pond, the dealerships successfully encouraged their corporate headquarters to donate a playground to Hidden Pond. Thank you, Saturn! Another valuable contribution came from Chevy's Tex Mex Restaurant in Merrifield. Twice a year, Chevy's sponsors "Park Night," which helps to raise funds for the Resource Management Division's Volunteer Program. Cassel's Awards & Engraving in Herndon gives a boost to parks by offering a reduced rate for trophies for the division's Stewardship Awards that recognize employee contributions.

Sometimes business partnerships can include a shovel, rake and a lot of muscle. Last year, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and local TicketMaster employees declared corporate work days, helping to refurbish the grounds. Datatel, Inc. has been a long-standing business friend to Ellanor C. Lawrence through corporate work days plus financial contributions. And where would the parks' farmer's markets be without the many vendors that participate?



With funds from the Sully Foundation, Park Authority craftsmen recreate the representative slave quarters at Sully.

■ Organizations and Agencies

It used to be "we'll do it by ourselves," but now it is recognized that cross-fertilization between park and environmental groups and park agencies can be enormously beneficial.

The cooperative venture with the Potomac Conservancy and Discovery Creek Children's Museum represents a new level of partnership, in which colleague organizations are working with us to share knowledge and increase the breadth of educational programs. Another partnership with the National Park Service provides professional training for Fairfax County park personnel.

An enduring and vital partnership for Fairfax County Parks is with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. This partnership involves an active water quality monitoring program for the parks. In fact, science honor students at Woodson High School use newfound skills to monitor water at four park sites on a quarterly basis.

■ Human Services

Some partnerships, such as the one between Hidden Oaks and the Bailey Family Shelter in Annandale, help homeless families. Once a month, while parents meet with social workers, the park provides a natural history program for children in childcare.

Through these partnerships and so many more, Fairfax County's nature centers and historical sites connect to county life in a hundred ways — because few things beat spending time in a park. ❄️

You Gotta Have Friends

Harry Glasgow and the Federation of Friends Groups

"Volunteering in any of the parks is the perfect antidote to the frenetic pace of modern life and more than makes up for the costs of city living."

It was nothing less than a rescue mission. When the citizens of Fairfax County learned that funding was severely reduced for two of their precious parks, Hidden Oaks Nature Center and Riverbend Park, they banded together and worked with the Board of Supervisors to have funding restored. In the process, the Federation of Friends Groups was created, in part through the steadfast efforts of Huntley Meadows Park volunteer Harry Glasgow.

Glasgow recalls, "When it happened, there was barely a whimper from the public, and I realized they needed to be informed. Believing an alliance was the best way to go, several of us volunteers got together and formed the Federation of Friends Groups for the nature centers and historical sites. As we anticipated, citizens responded in force. County supervisors received a thousand or more letters encouraging restoration of funds to the two parks. It made all the difference."

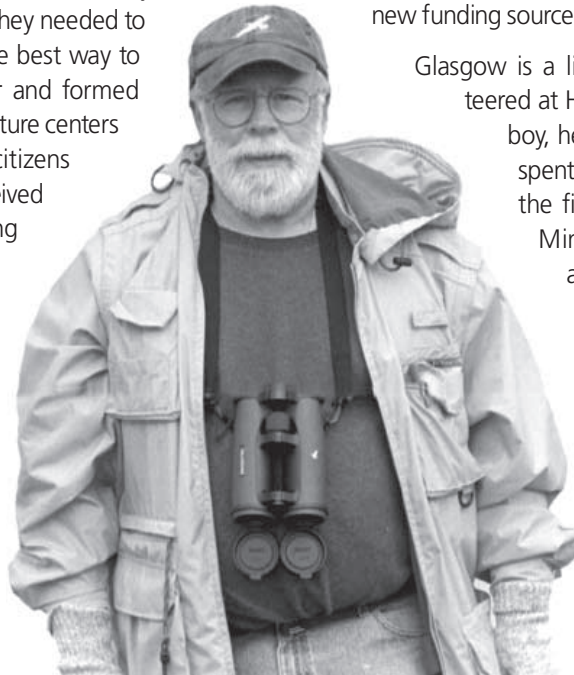
Asked what motivated his call to action, Glasgow puts it this way, "I feel that it's important to be involved with park policy because parks affect quality of life in Fairfax," adding, "Budget

reductions can degrade the parks, which represent a sound, major investment by the county for half a century or more, plus the many, many children, volunteers and visitors that are cut off from their learning, leisure and work in the parks."

Currently, the federation consists of six friends groups, representing at least 2,000 people and growing. In addition to keeping an eye on county budgets for park funding, the federation is also involved with forming new friends groups, and helping to find new funding sources including building business partnerships.

Glasgow is a lifelong environmentalist and has volunteered at Huntley Meadows Park for 14 years. As a boy, he explored the backwoods of Illinois and spent summers in Minnesota. "I'll never forget the first time I heard the call of a loon on a Minnesota lake," he recalls. "I've been addicted to nature ever since."

He sums up the feelings of many volunteers this way. "Volunteering in any of the parks is the perfect antidote to the frenetic pace of modern life and more than makes up for the costs of city living." ❄️



Harry Glasgow

Pleasures and Pastimes in Early America, 1750-1850



One of the winter's most engaging programs is the annual social history and material culture symposium, sponsored by our Collections Management Section. "Pleasures and Pastimes in Early America, 1750-1850," is the theme of this year's symposium, to take place at George Mason University on March 26th. The highly-regarded symposium is open to the public and attracts museum professionals and graduate students not only from Virginia, but all along the east coast. Presentations will include family pets, music, toys, games, theater and dance. Costumed interpreters, displays and books for sale will accompany the program. For more information and registration forms, call Susan Clark, Assistant Collections Manager at 703-631-1429, or email susan.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov. ❄️

LOOKING *continued from page 1*

Another exciting development is the new county-wide "Federation of Friends Groups" launched by Harry Glasgow, president of the Friends of Huntley Meadows. The federation has brought several of the friends groups together for joint action on budget issues and the proposed 2004 Park Bond Referendum.

Our staff volunteer coordinators are busier than ever. They have done a tremendous job in overseeing the involvement and contributions of more than 800 (yes, that was 800!) volunteers. Last year, our Resource Management Division volunteers contributed a stunning 56,000+ hours to a wide range of activities including research, restoration, archaeology, interpretation and visitor services. In addition, partner agreements and projects are multiplying, including involvement from government agencies, nonprofits and local businesses.

When Hurricane Isabel hit, the entire parks community worked beyond the call of duty to help our parks recover from hundreds of downed trees and other destruction. Riverbend Park was particularly hard hit during the hurricane and two violent storms preceding it. At one point, every trail in the park and the entrance road were closed.

With 2004, our award-winning *ResOURces* newsletter and *ResOURces Online* website begin their fourth year serving as a voice for the celebration of Fairfax County's heritage and the community of that supports it. Along with our staff, partners, volunteers, visitors and friends, the community includes wildlife great and small, plants towering and rare, irreplaceable historical sites, and inspiring community gardens. This issue of *ResOURces* is dedicated to all of them. ❄️

Happy New Year!

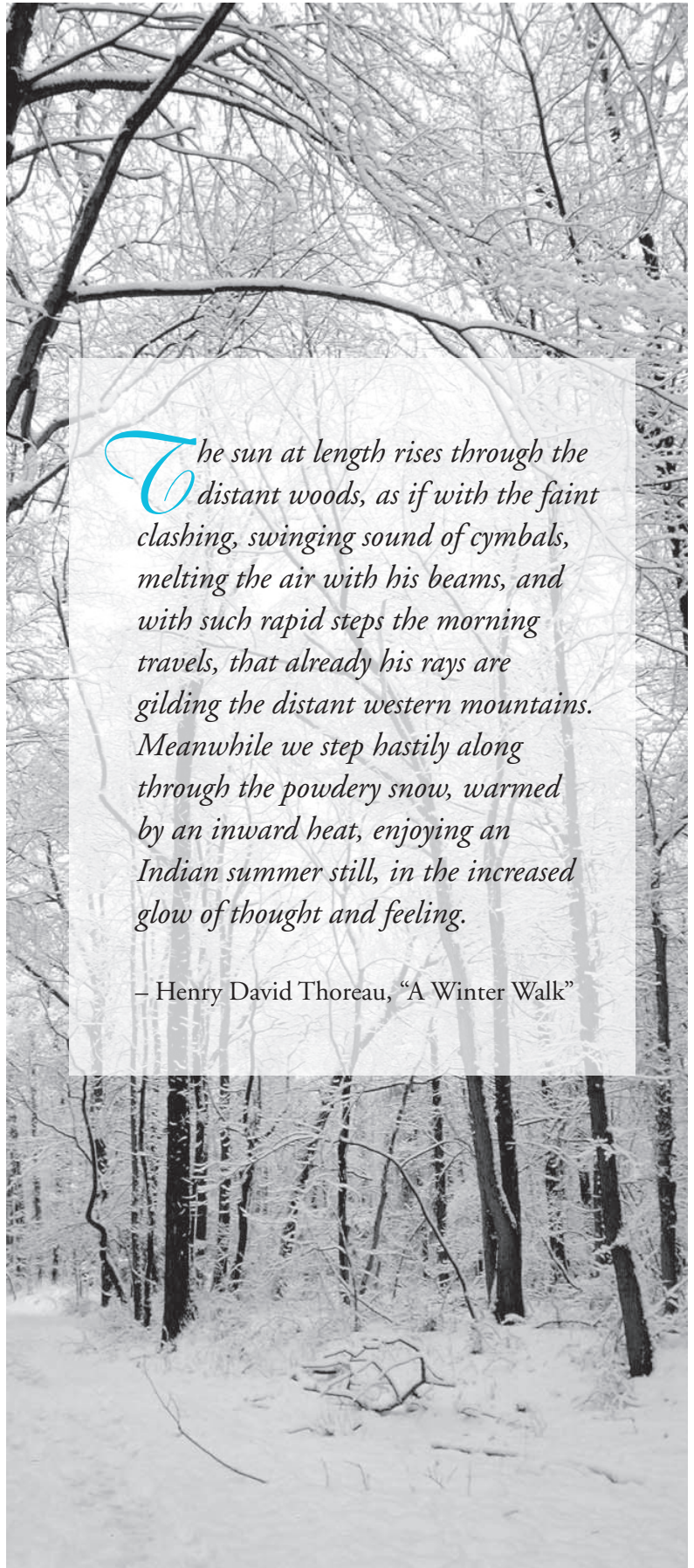
Lee Stephenson
Lee Stephenson



Lee Stephenson and nominees of the Interpretive Excellence Award. From left to right, Kitty Keller, Sue Becker, Mary Allen, Lee Stephenson, Barbara Ziman, and award recipient Charles Smith.

The sun at length rises through the distant woods, as if with the faint clashing, swinging sound of cymbals, melting the air with his beams, and with such rapid steps the morning travels, that already his rays are gilding the distant western mountains. Meanwhile we step hastily along through the powdery snow, warmed by an inward heat, enjoying an Indian summer still, in the increased glow of thought and feeling.

— Henry David Thoreau, "A Winter Walk"



Mission Protect

There's never a dull moment for Fairfax County's cultural and natural resource protectors. Whether it's digging for Virginia's past or protecting the environment in parks and on land scheduled for development, this intrepid group of guardians is in constant motion. Sound simple? Not a bit. Archaeologist Liz Crowell, Cultural Resource Protection manager for the Fairfax County Park Authority, and Todd Bolton, natural resources specialist, talk about saving county treasures.

"Cultural resource management in Fairfax County is a big job," says Crowell. "Virginia is one of the richest, if not the richest, historical area in all of America. Events that shaped our country happened here, right in Fairfax County. Archaeologists find evidence of Native American life, early exploration, our colonial past, 19th century development and the Civil War. The artifacts that remain are often right under our feet or at our doorsteps. Documenting and preserving these clues to our past is a priority. Archaeologists are like detectives. We fit together clues that make up the picture of life in the past. It's a great way for us to add to the history of the county and the nation."

"Cultural resource management in Fairfax County is a big job. Virginia is one of the richest, if not the richest, historical area in America."



Liz Crowell

"Written history often focuses on famous people. Archaeology gives all people a voice. It illuminates the history of people who did not necessarily write it for themselves — Native Americans, African American slaves, women and children, and other ordinary county citizens. What we have discovered from these sites helps the people of Fairfax County connect with their history."

The other half of protection services focuses on natural resources. Todd Bolton coordinates intricate and vital preservation activities for the county, and he rarely has a moment to spare. Bolton looks at it this way:

"The Resource Management Division's natural protection services cover 22,000+ acres within the park system, representing many varied plant communities and habitats. We work to protect these resources from stresses created by development, overuse, and



Todd Bolton

"If our parks are overused and become degraded, they lose both recreational and natural value. It's fulfilling to know that our work helps prevent that from happening."

non-native pests. Keeping an eye on rezoning and site plans is also part of our job, to make sure any negative impact on adjacent parks is minimized. We also participate in planning for new parks and facilities to make sure plans cover resource protection.

"Our team also educates staff and citizens about the impact of non-native vegetation on park resources. Vines such as oriental bitter-sweet, and other plants, such as feather reed grass or Japanese barberry, can spread into the parks, displacing native vegetation and reducing the genetic diversity of the plant communities around the county. Managing the natural areas within the parks for these types of problems is an ongoing challenge. The development of our new Natural Resource Management Plan will help to organize the resources necessary to move forward in caring for the parks effectively." (To read or download the plan, go to our website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.)

"After all, if our parks are overused and become degraded, they lose both recreational and natural value. It's fulfilling to know that our work helps prevent that from happening." ❄️



Park Authority archaeologist Bernard Tops excavates a Native American site.

SUBSCRIBE!

VISIT US SOON

☐ Please enter my **FREE** 2-year subscription to **RESOURCES**.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email Address _____

Tell us what you'd like to read about!

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature centers | <input type="checkbox"/> Birds | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening and horticulture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local history | <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology | <input type="checkbox"/> What else? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kids' projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Events | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic sites | |

MAIL TO: Fairfax County Park Authority
N. Peterson, Editor • Suite 936, Resource Management Division
12055 Government Center Parkway • Fairfax, VA 22035-1118
OR: subscribe through our website at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources.htm

Burke Lake Park
7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
Call 703-323-6600

Colvin Run Mill
10017 Colvin Run Road
Great Falls
Call 703-759-2771

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park
5040 Walney Road, Chantilly
Call 703-631-0013

Frying Pan Park
2709 West Ox Road, Herndon
Call 703-437-9101

Green Spring Gardens Park
4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria
Call 703-642-5173

Hidden Oaks Nature Center
7701 Royce Street, Annandale
Call 703-941-1065

Hidden Pond Nature Center
8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield
Call 703-451-9588

Huntley Meadows Park
3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria
Call 703-768-2525

Lake Accotink Park
7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield
Call 703-569-3464

Lake Fairfax Park
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston
Call 703-471-5414

Riverbend Park
8700 Potomac Hills Street
Great Falls
Call 703-759-9018

Sully Historic Site
Sully Road, Chantilly
Call 703-437-1794

Historic Properties Rental Services 703-938-8835

Need directions? More information?

VISIT US ONLINE AT: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

Groundhog Day Family Fun

Meet the larger-than-life Walney groundhog at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park on Sunday, February 1st from 1-2pm. Learn about groundhogs and the story behind Groundhog Day. Play games and visit the home of the Walney garden groundhog. Event is FREE, reservations required. Call 703-631-0013 to reserve or for more information.

Joys of Winter

Black History

Join historian Ron Chase on Wednesday, February 18th from 7:30-8:30pm at Huntley Meadows when he reveals the amazing story of **Gum Springs: Triumph of a Black Community**. Learn about the incredible West Ford, founder of Gum Springs, and the birth of a community. Event costs \$3 and reservations are required. Call 703-768-2525 to reserve or for more information.

Gardening Lecture Series

From mid-January through mid-March, Friends of Green Spring host their popular winter talks on gardening on Sundays from 1:30-3pm. Learn about orchids, green roofs, garden design, Native American herbs and more from expert gardening authors, designers and horticulturalists. Enjoy refreshments in Green Spring's atrium. For a schedule and reservations, call 703-642-5173. \$7/lecture.

To learn more about winter park events and to get directions, visit us online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



12055 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-1118

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 45
FAIRFAX VA

Please share the subscription information for **RESOURCES** with a friend, or include it in your Homeowners' Association publication to give your members the opportunity to subscribe.